Sent: Wed, 31 Jul 2013 08:31:01 -0400
From: "Hayden, Caitlin" <caitlin_m_hayden@nss.eop.gov>
To: Cora Currier <cora.currier@propublica.org>
Subject: RE: Dasht-e-Leili massacre

Hi, Cora! No U.S. personnel were involved in this incident. Thanks! -CH

From: Cora Currier [mailto:Cora.Currier@propublica.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2013 2:44 PM
To: Hayden, Caitlin
Subject: RE: Dasht-e-Leili massacre

Thanks.

From: Hayden, Caitlin [mailto:Caitlin_M_Hayden@nss.eop.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2013 2:37 PM
To: Cora Currier
Subject: RE: Dasht-e-Leili massacre

Will have to check and get back to you.

From: Cora Currier [mailto:Cora.Currier@propublica.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2013 2:32 PM
To: Hayden, Caitlin
Subject: RE: Dasht-e-Leili massacre

And finally – when you say U.S. troops below – did the investigation cover CIA or other intelligence personnel?

From: Hayden, Caitlin [mailto:Caitlin_M_Hayden@nss.eop.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2013 1:02 PM
To: Cora Currier
Subject: RE: Dasht-e-Leili massacre

At this point, no plan to release anything.

From: Cora Currier [mailto:Cora.Currier@propublica.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2013 1:01 PM
To: Hayden, Caitlin
Subject: RE: Dasht-e-Leili massacre

Just tried calling. At the least, Caitlin – is anything further going to be released – a report, a summary, source documents?

From: Hayden, Caitlin [mailto:Caitlin_M_Hayden@nss.eop.gov]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2013 3:27 PM
To: Cora Currier
Subject: RE: Dasht-e-Leili massacre

I definitely don't have time today, nor do I have any further information to provide you at this point. Feel free to e-mail further questions, otherwise, we can try to talk tomorrow. Thanks! -CH

From: Cora Currier [mailto:Cora.Currier@propublica.org]
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2013 2:29 PM
To: Hayden, Caitlin
Subject: RE: Dasht-e-Leili massacre

Caitlin, if you have a chance this afternoon or tomorrow morning, can we speak by phone? I just want to clarify a few things.
Thanks,
Cora

Office: 917 512 0228
Cell: [redacted] P6/b(6)

From: Hayden, Caitlin [mailto:Caitlin_M_Hayden@nss.eop.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2013 5:31 PM
To: Cora Currier
Cc: Lucas, Laura
Subject: RE: Dasht-e-Leili massacre

I can say that the investigation was led by the U.S. intelligence community, but I don't have further details to provide you on the process itself. Thanks! -Caitlin

From: Cora Currier [mailto:Cora.Currier@propublica.org]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2013 2:58 PM
To: Hayden, Caitlin
Cc: Lucas, Laura
Subject: RE: Dasht-e-Leili massacre

Caitlin,

Thanks for following up on this again. Can you tell me anything more about how the investigation proceeded?

Specifically:

Was it handled by National Security Staff, the Pentagon, or another agency? How long did it take? Did it cover earlier allegations that investigations had been discouraged by Bush administration officials, and the removal of evidence from graves in 2006-2009 period?

Finally, would the White House support a UNHCHR or UNAMA-led investigation into the incident?

Would appreciate any more detail.

Thank you,
Cora

From: Hayden, Caitlin [mailto:Caitlin_M_Hayden@nss.eop.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 26, 2013 10:51 AM
To: Cora Currier

Cc: Lucas, Laura
Subject: FW: Dasht-e-Leili massacre

Hi, Cora! Looping back on your question, I can now tell you that at the President's direction, the U.S. government has looked into the facts of the 2001 Dasht-e-Leili massacre and we have concluded that no American troops were involved in this incident.

For questions about the role of any Afghan citizens, we'd refer you to the Government of Afghanistan. As we have in other cases, including those documented in our annual human rights reports, we urge Afghanistan to work through its legal frameworks and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission to uphold human rights principles. In addition, we have long said that the future of Afghanistan is up to Afghans, and we support an Afghan-led process of peace and reconciliation to help end decades of war.

Thanks! -Caitlin

From: Cora Currier [mailto:Cora.Currier@propublica.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 29, 2013 10:41 AM
To: Lucas, Laura
Cc: Hayden, Caitlin
Subject: RE: from ProPublica

Hi Laura, Caitlin,

This has been bumped to this week. One follow-up: back in 2009, before the Afghan elections, Caitlin, you said on behalf of the U.S. embassy that "the United States maintains concerns about any leadership role for Mr. Dostum in today's Afghanistan."

Were those concerns borne out? Dostum retains a prominent political role in the North – has the U.S. position on him changed?

If this should be directed to the Embassy in Kabul – Caitlin, do you have a point person there you could direct me to?

Best,
Cora

From: Lucas, Laura [mailto:Laura_D_Lucas@nss.eop.gov]
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 6:34 PM
To: Cora Currier
Cc: Hayden, Caitlin
Subject: RE: from ProPublica

Hi Cora,

At the direction of the President, his national security team is continuing its work looking into the Dasht-e-leili massacre. I don't have any specific details to share at this time, but we can follow up with you once that work is complete.

Best, Laura

Laura Lucas
NSS Assistant Press Secretary
Office: 202-456-9277
LLucas@nss.eop.gov

From: Cora Currier [mailto:Cora.Currier@propublica.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 5:02 PM
To: Lucas, Laura; Hayden, Caitlin
Subject: RE: from ProPublica

Hi Laura. Quick update –I'm now on a firm deadline for Friday morning. Appreciate your help. I understand it might be hard to track folks down as there's been staff turnover.

Thanks again,
Cora

From: Lucas, Laura [mailto:Laura_D_Lucas@nss.eop.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 1:47 PM
To: Cora Currier; Hayden, Caitlin
Subject: RE: from ProPublica

Hi Cora, I don't have anything for you yet but haven't forgotten about you. I'll be back in touch. Best, Laura

---

From: Cora Currier [mailto:Cora.Currier@propublica.org]
Sent: Monday, May 13, 2013 1:42 PM
To: Hayden, Caitlin
Cc: Lucas, Laura
Subject: RE: from ProPublica

Hi Caitlin, Laura,

Circling back on this. To clarify the "partial" comment – I mean that, if you don't have a statement for me yet, can we talk about what you know on this, to inform my reporting.
Thanks.

From: Hayden, Caitlin [mailto:Caitlin_M_Hayden@nss.eop.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 5:45 PM
To: Cora Currier
Cc: Lucas, Laura
Subject: RE: from ProPublica

Partial isn't really our style, but we'll see what we can do!

From: Cora Currier [mailto:Cora.Currier@propublica.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 5:44 PM
To: Hayden, Caitlin
Cc: Lucas, Laura
Subject: RE: from ProPublica

Thanks, Caitlin, for getting back to me so quickly. Even something partial tomorrow would be great.

From: Hayden, Caitlin [mailto:Caitlin_M_Hayden@nss.eop.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 5:43 PM
To: Cora Currier
Cc: Lucas, Laura
Subject: RE: from ProPublica

Hi, Cora! Have a lot on our plates and not sure we'll have something tomorrow, but we'll work on it. Thanks! -Caitlin

---

From: Cora Currier [mailto:Cora.Currier@propublica.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 09, 2013 5:20 PM
To: Hayden, Caitlin
Subject: from ProPublica

Hi Caitlin,

Question for you: back in '09, President Obama pledged to order a review of the alleged massacre of Taliban prisoners in Afghanistan in November, 2001. (Generally known as the Dasht-e-leili massacre.)He said so in response to a New York Times report that no investigation had been allowed to proceed under the Bush administration.

It seems that since then, nothing more about this has been released to the public. Did the President in fact order a national security council review of this? Was an official investigation launched? To what end?

Hoping to file by early next week – if you could get back to me tomorrow I'd appreciate it.

Thank you,
Cora

ProPublica
55 Broadway, 23rd Fl.
New York, NY 10006
Office: 917 512 0228
Cell: [redacted]

P6/b(6)

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****** JBARRON **** 2008-09-12 10:09:49 ******

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DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THESE ALLEGATIONS MERIT INVESTIGATION.
3. (C) ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, BETWEEN 2000 AND 3000 TALIBAN AND FOREIGN FIGHTERS WERE CAPTURED IN KUNDUZ LAST NOVEMBER BY NORTHERN ALLIANCE FORCES UNDER THE COMMAND OF GENERAL DOSTUM. THE PRISONERS WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN LOADED ONTO CONTAINER TRUCKS FOR TRANSPORT TO SHEBERGHAN PRISON. DURING TRANSPORT MANY, PERHAPS THOUSANDS, ARE SAID TO HAVE DIED FROM ASPHYXIATION, HEAT AND LACK OF WATER. NEWSWEEK CLAIMS THAT ITS STORY IS BASED ON INTERVIEWS WITH DRIVERS OF THE CONTAINER TRUCKS AND OTHER WITNESSES, WHO CLAIMED DOSTUM'S SOLDIERS PREVENTED THEM FROM PROVIDING RELIEF OR ASSISTANCE TO THE PRISONERS. WITNESSES REPORTEDLY STATED THAT IN DECEMBER DOSTUM'S MEN BLOCKED ACCESS TO THE DASHT-E LEILI AREA, AND THAT CONTAINER TRUCKS AND BULLDOZERS WERE ACTIVE AT THE ALLEGED BURIAL SITE.
4. (C) IN EARLY APRIL, DEPARTMENT REQUESTED IN REFTEL A THAT POST DEMARCHE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES ENCOURAGING

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PAGE 03 STATE 160166 220350Z

PROTECTION OF SEVERAL ALLEGED MASS GRAVE SITES REPORTED CONFIDENTIALLY BY PHR TO DEPARTMENT. (POST'S RESPONSE IS IN REFTEL B.) ONE OF THESE SITES, IN THE SHEBERGHAN AREA, MAY BE THE SAME AS THE SITE REPORTED THIS WEEK BY NEWSWEEK AND PHR.
5. (C//REL TO ATA) ACTION REQUEST: DEPARTMENT REQUESTS AMBASSADOR PLEASE ENGAGE ATA AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS AND DELIVER THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
--U.S. IS CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT ALLEGATIONS OF MASS KILLINGS LATE LAST YEAR AND A MASS GRAVE SITE IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN;
--AS YOU KNOW, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS ARISING FROM THE PERIOD OF THE SOVIET OCCUPATION AS WELL AS AFGHANISTAN'S LONG CIVIL CONFLICT;
--WE BELIEVE THESE ALLEGATIONS CONCERN SERIOUS MATTERS, AND WE BELIEVE INVESTIGATION IS WARRANTED;
--WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT YOUR ACTIVE PURSUIT OF THESE SERIOUS ISSUES WILL CONTRIBUTE DIRECTLY TO STRENGTHENING THE ITGA AND AIDING AFGHANISTAN IN HEALING THE WOUNDS OF THE PROLONGED CONFLICT;
--WE WELCOME PRESIDENT KARZAI'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL INVESTIGATE THESE ALLEGATIONS.
--WE URGE YOU TO CONSIDER WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SECURE AND PRESERVE POTENTIAL EVIDENCE AT THE ALLEGED MASS BURIAL SITES, AS WELL AS TO PROTECT POTENTIAL WITNESSES;
--WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WAYS IN WHICH YOU MIGHT BE

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ASSISTED IN SUCH EFFORTS.
END POINTS.

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6. (C) ACTION REQUEST, CONTINUED: DEPARTMENT ALSO REQUESTS THAT AMB. FINN PLEASE APPROACH BRAHIMI TO DETERMINE IF AND HOW THE UN CAN ASSIST, BUT NOT LEAD, THE ITGA, IN ITS INVESTIGATION OF THIS MATTER. AMBASSADOR SHOULD ALSO SEEK CONFIRMATION OF PRESS REPORTS THAT THE UN PARTICIPATED IN THE INITIAL INQUIRY INTO EVENTS AT DASHT-I-LEILI. IF TRUE, HAS THE UN PREPARED ITS OWN REPORT THAT CAN BE SHARED WITH THE USG? IN ADDITION, IS THE UN OFFERING TO ASSIST THE ITGA IN INVESTIGATING THIS AND OTHER ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES?
7. (U) PLEASE SLUG RESPONSE FOR S/WCI, SA AND DRL.
8. (U) KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
POWELL

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****** JBARRON **** 2008-09-12 10:09:49 ******

UNCLASSIFIED

Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

July 23, 2008

Mr. Leonard S. Rubenstein
Executive Director
Physicians for Human Rights
1156 15th St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Reference: F-2008-01238

Dear Mr. Rubenstein:

In the course of processing your 21 June 2006 Freedom of Information Act request to the Department of Defense for specific records concerning the mass grave at Dasht-e-Leili in Afghanistan, five Foreign Broadcast Information Service documents were located and referred to us for review and direct response to you.

We have reviewed the enclosed documents and determined that they can be released in their entirety

Thank you for your patience while we processed this referral.

Sincerely,

Delores M. Nelson

Delores M. Nelson
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

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HEADER
P 291536Z AUG 02
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TO RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC [redacted]
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INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC
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PHR- DIA Docs 1

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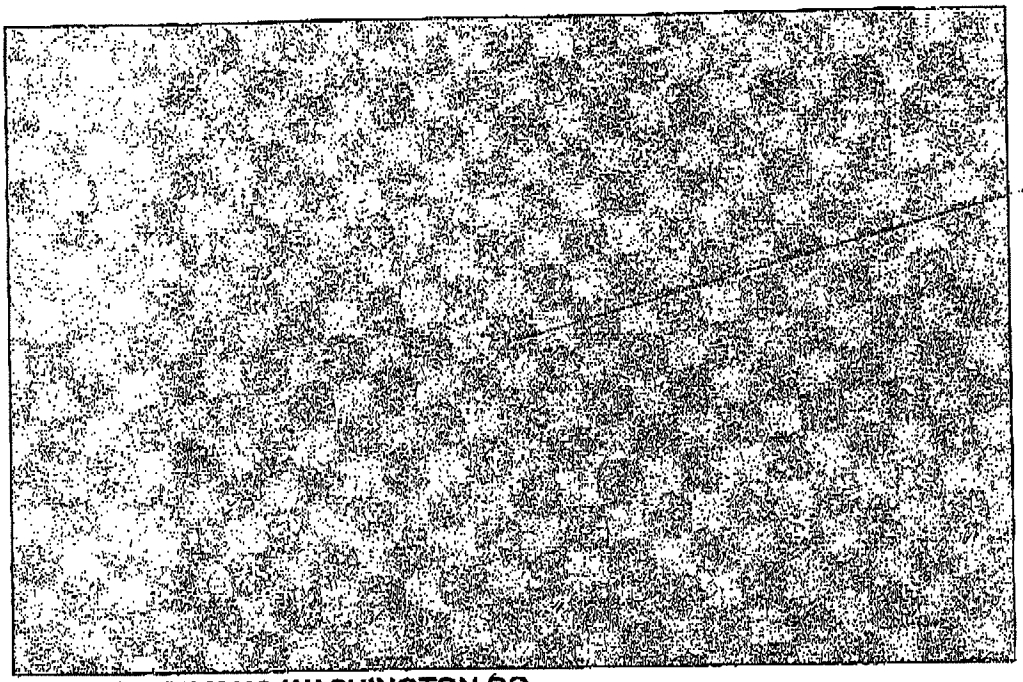

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CONTROLS (b)(2)
~~S E C R E T NOFORN~~ (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424
CITE: (U)
SERIAL: (U) (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424
BODY
(b)(2)
COUNTRY: (U) **AFGHANISTAN** (AF).
SUBJ: EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL ENVOY PROBING POSSIBLE U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ALLEGED WAR CRIMES IN THE NORTH (b)(2),(b)(3): 10 USC 424
(U) (U)
WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT ~~CLASSIFIED S E C R E T NOFORN~~.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (b)(1),(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC 424,1.4 (c)

DOI: (U) 20020823.
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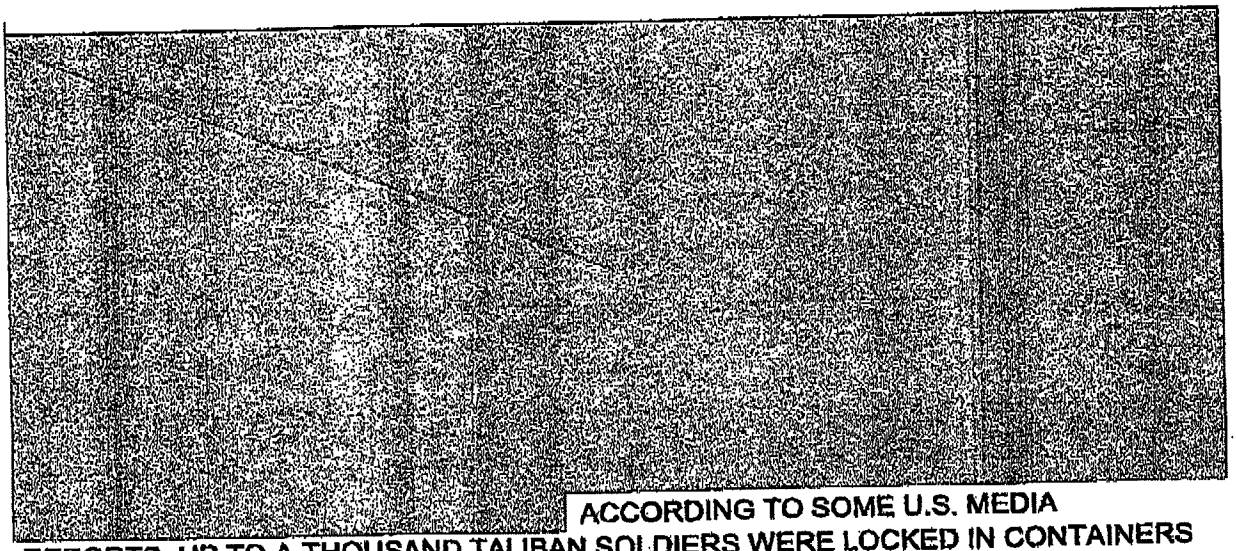

ACCORDING TO SOME U.S. MEDIA REPORTS, UP TO A THOUSAND TALIBAN SOLDIERS WERE LOCKED IN CONTAINERS WITH NO AIR AND LEFT TO DIE. THEY WERE THEN DUMPED INTO A **MASS GRAVE IN DASHT-E LEILI** (CNA), NEAR SHEBERGHAN IN JOWZJAN PROVINCE.

(b)(2) (b)(1),1.4 (c)

(NFI.)

(b)(1),1.4 (c) 2. THE U.S. MEDIA ACCOUNTS OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED WERE BASED ON NO FACTUAL EVIDENCE. THERE WERE TWELVE AFGHAN DOCTORS FROM SHEBERGHAN HOSPITAL PRESENT WHEN THE TRUCKS ARRIVED. THERE WERE ALSO U.S. MILITARY MEDICS PRESENT ON THE SECOND DAY WHO HELPED TRIAGE AND ASSIST THE DOCTORS IN THE TREATMENT OF THE WOUNDED. WHEN THE TRUCKS ARRIVED THERE WERE BETWEEN EIGHTY AND NINETY TALIBAN SOLDIERS FOUND DEAD IN THE TRUCKS. IT APPEARED ALL OF THE SOLDIERS FOUND DEAD WERE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN THE FIGHTING AND HAD DIED OF THEIR WOUNDS. THERE WERE AN ADDITIONAL THREE HUNDRED SOLDIERS WOUNDED TO ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER, RANGING FROM MINOR TO LIFE THREATENING. OF THE THREE HUNDRED WOUNDED THE TWELVE DOCTORS AND U.S. MILITARY MEDICS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIVE, WITH FIFTEEN SUBSEQUENTLY DYING OF THEIR WOUNDS. THE DEAD SOLDIERS WERE DUMPED AT THE **MASS GRAVE SITE IN DASHT-E LEILI**, WHICH HAD BEEN USED AS A BURIAL GROUND FOR MANY YEARS BY THE TALIBAN. OFFERED THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE DOCTORS. TOLD TO REQUEST AN OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION BE CONDUCTED WITH FORENSIC SCIENTISTS AND INCLUDE THE U.S. MILITARY IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

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CLEAR CHRONOLOGY OF THE ACTUAL EVENTS AS THEY HAD HAPPENED.

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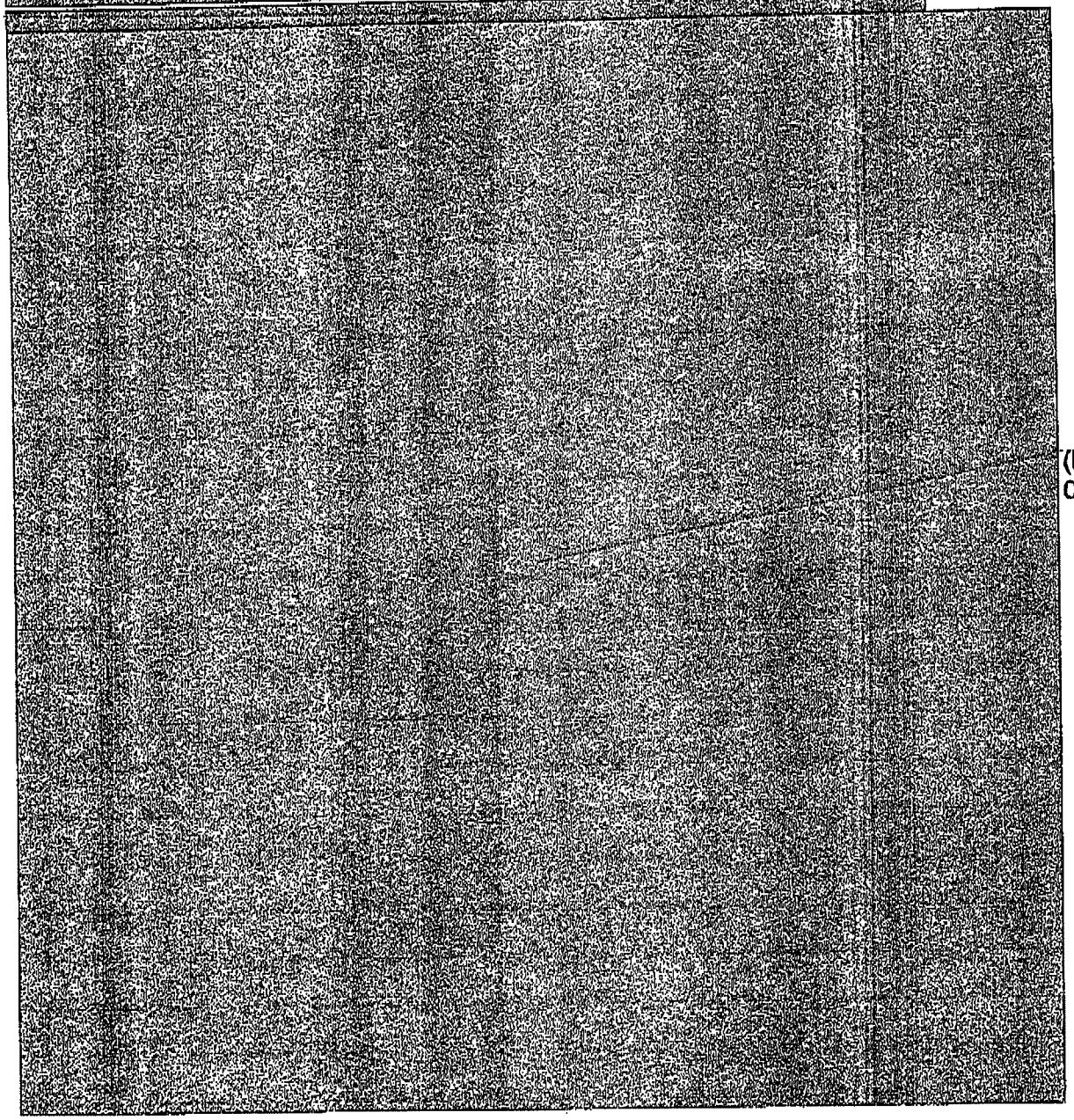

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ADMIN

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PAGE 02
PHYS FOR HUMAN RTS
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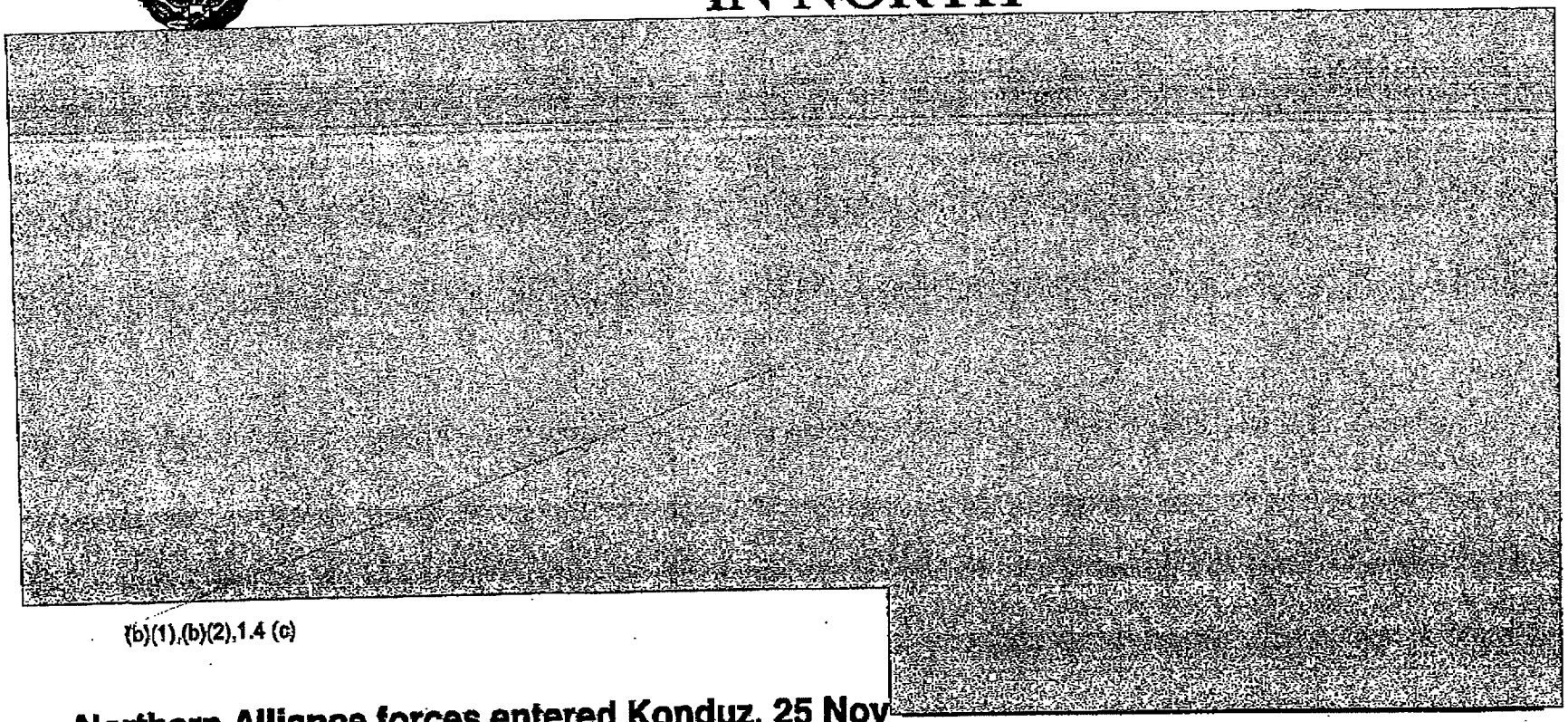
PHR- DIA Docs 6

AFGHANISTAN: SITUATION IN NORTH



(b)(1),(b)(2),1.4 (c)

- **Northern Alliance forces entered Konduz, 25 Nov**
(AFP, 251708Z Nov 01, U)
- Additional surrenders expected, 26 Nov (BBC U)
- Safety of foreign fighters guaranteed by Rabbani (AFP, 251707Z Nov 01)

(b)(2)

26 Nov 01

(b)(2)

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PAGE 03
PHYS FOR HUMAN RTS
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PHR- DIA Docs 7

(b)(1),(b)(2),1.4 (c)

AFGHANISTAN: SITUATION IN NORTH

[redacted]

- **No change in military situation (U)**
  - **Some shelling, more Taliban have surrendered (AFP 240140Z Nov 01, U)**

[redacted]

(b)(1),(b)(2),1.4 (c)

24 Nov 01

[redacted]

(b)(2)

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(b)(2)

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No Longer Applicable

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

b1.4c,5,6 was concerned and upon about the recent media reports alleging his troops slaughtered TB prisoners and put the bodies in mass graves. b1.4c,5,6 said that the 5,000 TB prisoners were packed into trucks and in some instances cotton containers. b1.4c,5,6 claimed this was done because of a lack of proper vehicles to transport the prisoners. Of the 5,000 prisoners b1.4c,5,6 stated that 200 (not the thousands reported) died from injuries sustained in the fighting, thirst, or hunger. (SEE) 192 SITREP. 271800ZAUG02)

b1.4c
b5
b6

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No Longer Applicable

Doc 1

No Longer Applicable
No Longer Applicable

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

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Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive TEAM MEMBERS ATTENDED A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE PUT ON BY [redacted] HELD AT THE MIN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN MES. THE PURPOSE OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS TO REFUTE THE RECENT MEDIA STORIES, PARTICULARLY IN NEWSWEEK, CLAIMING THE NORTHERN ALLIANCE KILLED THOUSANDS OF TB AND AQ PRISONERS, AND DUMPED THE BODIES IN A MASS GRAVE. CBS AND CNN WERE AMONG THE MEDIA PRESENT.

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

No Longer Applicable
No Longer Applicable

DOC 2

No Longer Applicable
No Longer Applicable

b1 4.d, 5, 6

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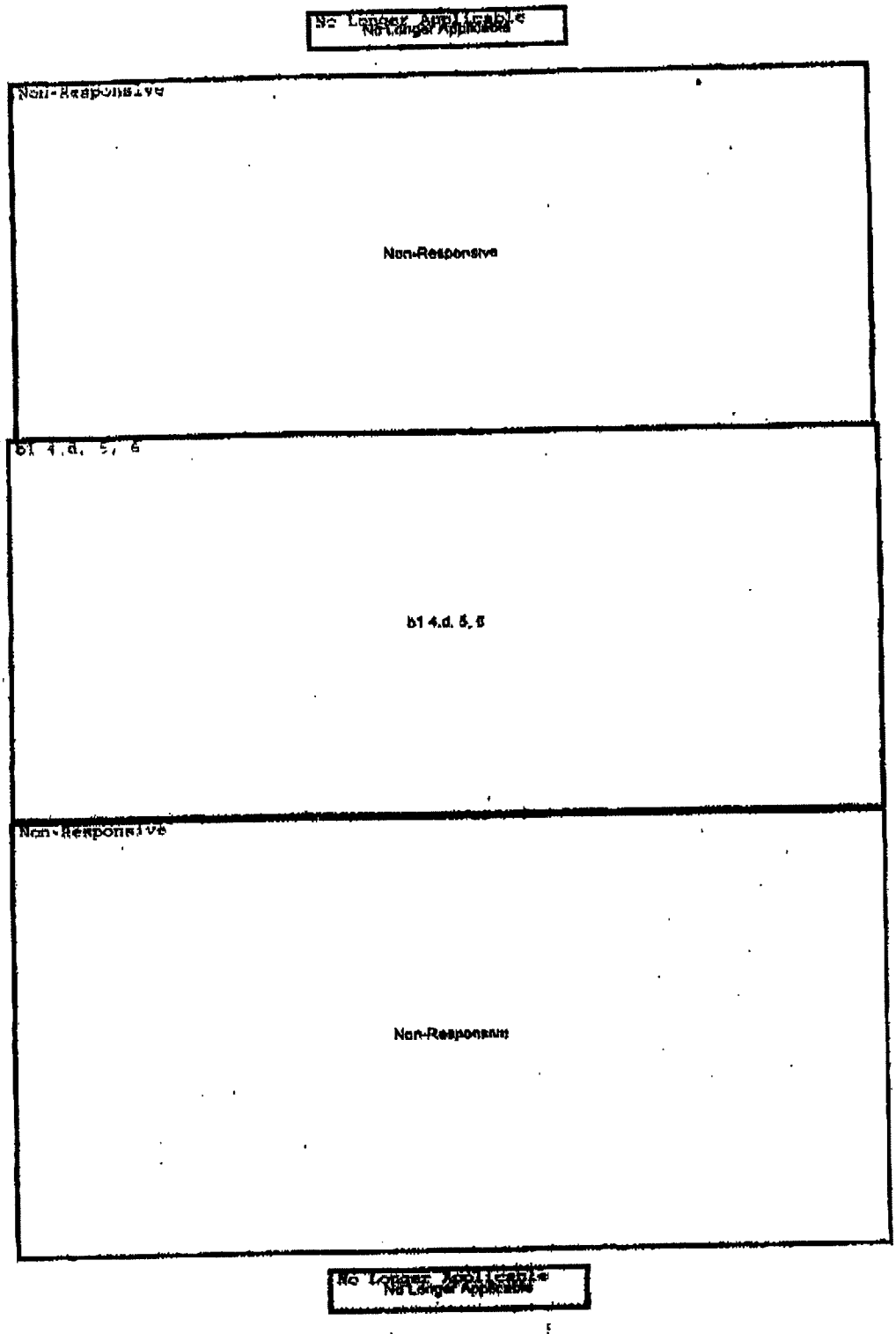
Doc 3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b1 4.d. 5, 6
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No Longer Applicable

Doc 4

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive (b)(5), (b)(6)

(b)(5), (b)(6)

(b)(5) (b)(6) WANTS TO MEET WITH THE [redacted] AND VISIT ERGHT-I-LEILI, SITE OF A POSSIBLE MASS GRAVE OUTSIDE OF SHEBERGHAN.

Non-Responsive

Non-Responsive

DOC 5

When over 3,500 Taliban troops surrendered in the Qonduz area they were transported to the Sheberghan Prison in the northwest province of Jowizjan. Continuing to advise GEN Dostum and traveling to Sheberghan, "Alpha" Team advised him in prison security, medical aid and humanitarian assistance to ensure the best humanitarian treatment possible for the prisoners. The ODA, through local contacts, became aware of the presence of a possible American-Taliban prisoner. Upon investigating, the ODA discovered Mr. John Walker Lindh. After notifying higher, Walker was secured and transported to MES. Detachment members conducted numerous surveys in order to ascertain humanitarian needs, visiting numerous hospitals and clinics to determine medical needs for local doctors. The ODA continued to work with Dostum, training his bodyguards and advising him in his personal security.

Non-Responsive

Doc 6

(3)

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1400

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

17 July 2003

Honorable Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

Thank you for your letter of June 6, 2003, to Mr. Powell A. Moore, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, on behalf of your constituent, [redacted] who expressed concern about allegations of U.S. military involvement in the killings of Taliban prisoners in western Afghanistan. [redacted] heard these allegations in a documentary produced by Mr. Jamie Doran.

U.S. Central Command personnel investigated this matter following the discovery of unmarked graves west of Shibarghan prison. The investigation found no evidence of participation by U.S. service personnel in any of the alleged activities. There is no evidence that U.S. service personnel were present, which is not surprising, as U.S. forces were not operating in the vicinity. Contrary to Mr. Doran's understanding, there were no U.S. military personnel assigned to the Shibarghan prison.

Our Special Operations Forces and U.S. Army Special Forces personnel are well briefed on human rights and were so informed prior to their insertion into Afghanistan. All of our forces are thoroughly trained in the Laws of Armed Conflict. They are disciplined professionals. In the debriefings that followed their activities in that country none of the U.S. forces indicated having seen any atrocities committed.

An unfortunately common misassumption is that U.S. Special Operations teams, though able and effective contributors to what is a reasonably secure environment for that country through their counsel of restraint and by facilitating and encouraging communication, act in the capacity of a conquering force with authoritative powers.

Special Operations Forces serve to a significant degree as advisers to foreign military personnel, helping to educate those troops in professional military procedure, which includes strongly encouraging an understanding of and compliance with human rights norms and objectives, enabling us the capability and the credibility to prevent human rights abuses, a key to societal development and stability. If human rights abuses occur in their presence, and doing so would not unduly jeopardize their own safety and security, U.S. Special Operations personnel are instructed to put a halt to those activities.

[redacted]/OASD(PA)PIA/17Jul2003/428-0711/U10010-2003

U10010-03

Thank you for sharing with the Department of Defense the concerns of [redacted] We are grateful for her and your support for the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces fighting the global war on terrorism.

Sincerely yours,

Janice M. Simms

Janice M. Simms
Acting Director for Public Inquiry
And Analysis